

To: Governor
From: Buddy B.
Re: "Corruption ranking"
Date: January 29, 2007

The Wall Street Journal really stooped low and misconstrued this – and other elements – in today's story. Quoting from the story, "Recently, Mississippi was named the most corrupt state in the nation by Corporate Crime Reporter, a Washington, D.C.-based publication."

Several questions come to mind.

First, what is "Corporate Crime Reporter"?

- Corporate Crime Reporter is a newsletter published by a group called Democracy Now!, which describes itself as "a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program airing on over 450 stations in North America. Pioneering the largest public media collaboration in the U.S., Democracy Now! is broadcast on Pacifica, NPR, community and college radio stations; on public access, PBS, satellite television (DISH network: Free Speech TV ch. 9415 and Link TV ch. 9410; DIRECTV: Link TV ch. 375); as a "podcast," and on the internet.
- The program is produced out of a community media center in New York City's Chinatown.
- Democracy Now! claims to provide its audience access to people and perspectives rarely heard in the U.S. corporate-sponsored media, including independent and international journalists, ordinary people from around the world who are directly affected by U.S. foreign policy, grassroots leaders and peace activists, artists, academics and independent analysts.

So, "Democracy Now" is clearly on the fringes.

Second, what is the newsletter's "state corruption rate"?

- Corporate Crime Reporters claims to get statistics from the Public Integrity Section of the U.S. Department of Justice. This annual DOJ

report documents the number of prosecutions and convictions of individuals nabbed in public corruption investigations, focusing on crimes involving abuses of public trust by government officials.

- In its 2002 report, the Public Integrity Section published a compilation of all federal corruption convictions over the previous decade, the years 1993-2002.
- The newsletter added up the total convictions for each state from that time period (1993-2002), found the 2002 population for each state and calculated a corruption rate for each state, defined as the total number of public corruption convictions from 1993-2002 per 100,000 residents.
- This report was released on January 16, 2004 at a news conference at the National Press Club.